

# geographia



AGTA News  
July 2019



AGTA Conference 2019



Australia Geography Competition  
2019



Geography Unlocked Series



EUROGEO Mini-Conference 2019,  
Paris

## AGTA Geographia 2019

*Welcome to the latest edition of Geographia, the national newsletter of the Australian Geography Teachers' Association.*

### AGTA Membership.

The Australian Geography Teachers Association (AGTA) has seven members being the geography professional associations in each State and the Northern Territory.

Individuals, schools and other institutions, non-government organisations and businesses should join the relevant member association in each State or Territory (NT).

AGTA's 15 directors consist of two directors from each member affiliate, one being the President of the Affiliate Association and the other being nominated by the member.

Individuals can only make representation to AGTA through their association to bring issues to the national attention.

AGTA exists as a national body representing the interests of Geography Teachers across Australia.

If you have an issue that you believe would merit national attention you can raise it through your local state Geography Association.

You can inquire about membership and connect with your local associations.

[New South Wales](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Victoria](#)

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## AGTA Board

Executive Chair	Trish Douglas (VIC)
Vice Chair	Darryl Michie (WA)
Immediate Past Chair	Grant Kleeman (NSW)
Secretary	Anna Griffin (WA)
Treasurer	Grant Kleeman (NSW)

### Appointed Directors & Nominated Directors:

Leo Conti (GAWA)  
Lorraine Chaffer (NSW)  
Susan Caldis (NSW)  
Anna Hind (NT)  
Julie Hearnden (NT)  
Julie Davis (QLD)  
Shane Albertson (QLD)  
Joanne Wegener (SA)  
Elise Walker (SA)  
Rowan Harris (TAS)  
Karen Caporelli (TAS)  
Alex Rossimel (VIC)

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## AGTA Conference 2019

Registrations are open.

The conference theme is 'The Innovative Geographer'.

The conference program provides opportunities for

teachers from across Australia to share and reflect on their own innovations in the Geography classroom.

The social activities, including Welcome Drinks, and the Conference Dinner will provide an ideal opportunity to network with fellow geographers from across the country. We are incredibly excited to announce that Kerry O'Brien, prominent journalist and author, is one of the keynote speakers.

Early bird registration ends:  
31 July 2019

Last Registration Date:  
16 September 2019

Conference Dates:  
1 to 4 October 2019

Check out the AGTA 2019 website for further details and to sign up for updates.

We look forward to seeing you on the sunny Gold Coast in October 2019.

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# Registrations are now open!

Join us for four days of innovation, collaboration and networking!

**Go to [www.agta2019.com.au](http://www.agta2019.com.au) to register**



 AGTA 2019: The Innovative Geographer  @agta2019  geoteachers2019

 0400 121 311  [admin@agta2019.com.au](mailto:admin@agta2019.com.au)  [www.agta2019.com.au](http://www.agta2019.com.au)

## Australia Geography Competition 2019

The 2019 Australian Geography Competition was run from Wednesday 27 March to Wednesday 10 April. This timing of the Competition is a return to the end of Term One, at the request of the AGTA Board.

It is pleasing to see the number of schools and students entered in 2019 continues the trend experienced since 2016 of increasing numbers. As at 16 May 2019, the Competition had 73,606 students from 791 schools entered. Table 1 provides a breakdown of entries

by state and territory from 2014 to 2019.

There were 204 schools that entered in 2019 which did not in 2018. Of these, 61 schools had not entered the Competition since it commenced in 1995.

Schools will be contacted about 2019 prize winners, and dispatch of student certificates and results will be completed by the end of June.

The 2019 Geography's Big Week Out (GBWO) will be held from Sunday 15 to Friday 20

December on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. It again is being coordinated by Liam Sloan of the Geography Teachers' Association of South Australia (GTASA) with volunteer assistance from GTASA members and the AGC Committee. We thank Liam for the time and dedication he has put into making this event such a success.

The 2019 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) is being held at the Education University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong, China (<https://www.eduhk.hk/igeo2019/>) from Tuesday 30 July to Monday 5 August 2019. The four students who will be representing Australia are:

Jacob Thai from Sydney Grammar School, NSW

Stefan Simic from McKinnon Secondary College, Vic

Alex Shierlaw from St Peter's College, Hackney, SA

Eleanor Smith from Kilvington Grammar School, Vic.

Table 1 Number of schools and entries as at 16 May 2019 with data from 2014 to 2018 by State and Territory.

State / Terr'	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	Entries	Sch's	Entries	Sch's	Entries	Sch's	Entries	Sch's	Entries	Sch's	Entries	Sch's
ACT	2,682	19	24,97	16	2,306	18	2,467	22	2,425	21	2,270	21
NSW	25,892	275	27,841	281	23,313	226	25,807	269	27,321	283	27,590	285
NT	270	4	498	7	122	5	297	4	164	4	244	4
QLD	12,021	146	14,179	154	12,813	136	11,045	149	11,189	148	13,207	152
SA	4,333	48	4,847	41	3,654	42	3,800	38	3,261	33	3,406	38
TAS	1,031	26	906	25	816	26	1,025	25	1,283	30	1,029	31
VIC	14,880	151	15,184	140	13,221	124	15,040	134	15,045	153	15,102	153
WA	9,539	88	12,407	103	10,243	90	11,042	97	11,469	106	10,650	101
Other <sup>1</sup>	118	3	114	3	79	3	156	5	123	4	108	4
Total	70,766	760	78,473	770	66,567	670	70,679	743	72,280	782	73,606	791

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## Australia Geography Competition 2019 continued.

The two Australian Team Leaders accompanying the Australian students are AGC Committee member Kath Berg, and Simon Roos-Freeman, Geography Teacher and GTASA member. Simon has assisted Liam Sloan with the GBWO over the last two years.

The hosting GTA's GBWO Coordinator travels and participates in an iGeo. This is a wonderful experience which

provides the GTA member with the opportunity to network with geography educators and students from around the world.

Simon and three students will be participating in a post-iGeo excursion, a 6-Day-5 Night tour in Sichuan, China.

The Australian Geography Competition Committee would like to thank the valuable support of the 2019 Competition sponsors:

Flinders University, College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Macquarie University, Department of Geography and Planning, and the Department of Environmental Sciences

Monash University, School of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment (Physical Geography), and the School of Social Sciences (Human Geography)

The University of Western Australia

University of Queensland, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences

The Australian Department of Education and Training continues its support of the GBWO and Australia's participation at the iGeo in 2019.



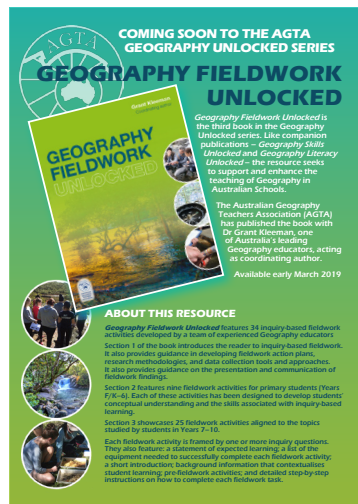
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## Geography Unlocked Series

### Geography Fieldwork Unlocked

The latest instalment in the Geography Unlocked series is here. It features 34 inquiry-based fieldwork activities developed by a team of experienced Geography educators. Activities are targeted at both primary and secondary levels. It provides guidance in developing fieldwork action plans, research methodologies, and data collection tools and approaches as well as guidance on the presentation and communication of fieldwork findings.

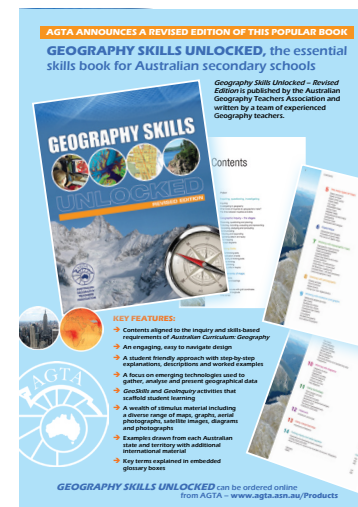


### Revised! Geography Skills Unlocked

Looking for a current textbook to support the teaching of geography skills in your classroom? Geography Skills Unlocked (Revised Edition) is written by teachers for teachers. This exciting and fully revised skills book is up-to-date with the demands and requirements of teaching geography today and features a statistical update. Features include:

- Contents aligned to the inquiry and skills-based requirements of Australian Curriculum: Geography
- An engaging, easy to navigate design
- A student friendly approach with step-by-step
- explanations, descriptions and worked examples
- A focus on emerging technologies used to gather, analyse and present geographical data

- GeoSkills and GeoInquiry activities that scaffold student learning
- A wealth of stimulus material including a diverse range of maps, graphs, aerial photographs, satellite images, diagrams and photographs
- Examples drawn from each Australian state and territory with additional international material
- Key terms explained in embedded glossary boxes.



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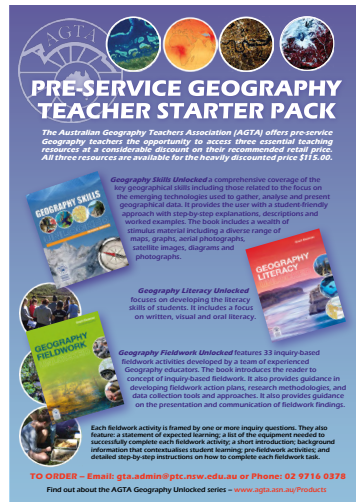
## Geography Unlocked Series continued.

### Geography Literacy Unlocked

Geography can make an important contribution to your school's literacy enrichment program. To help promote literacy in secondary schools AGTA offers the relevant resource, Geography Literacy Unlocked. The text incorporates a wealth of material covering written, visual and oral literacy.

More details are available [here](#).

Contact your state or territory affiliate to order an inspection copy or class set of any the Geography Unlocked texts.



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## EUROGEO Mini-Conference 2019, Paris

### Teaching Geography in Challenging Times

The European Association of Geographers celebrated its 40th anniversary by holding a mini-conference in Paris on March 14-15. About 90 geography educators attended with more than half visiting from outside France. Seventy one papers were presented including two keynote addresses and two workshops. The focus of the conference was underlined by the Climate Strike by school students in 130 cities the following Saturday.

Enormous threats such as climate change, complex political and economic crises, territorial fighting and related issues are intensifying. As a result we are experiencing a period of dramatic and

arguably irrevocable change within a wider context of turbulence in society. The result has been a great deal of polarization within our communities. With so much change and daily turmoil we are often asked to respond to questions and concerns about the world.

Geography has the potential to respond to these challenges. We believe that geographical knowledge and geographical perspectives play an increasingly important role in our technology-oriented society where the study of place, space and process can help us understand and solve real-world problems. Indeed, by using geographic information, we can actively construct, analyze and present different aspects of the world and act on these representations.

EUROGEO 2019 'Teaching geography in challenging times' provided opportunities to discuss the role and potential of Geography to solve today- and future issues as well as to respond to needs of society and the world.

The 2019 EUROGEO Annual Conference will be organised in August 2019 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Find out more about the conference [click here](#).

Report supplied by Bruce Tamagno, North West Region, Royal Geographical Society, UK.

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## Around the Affiliates:

### GAWA

As of May 2019 we have 119 metropolitan and 38 country members.

Committee:

**President:** Leo Conti

**Vice Presidents:** Laura Billington & Peggy Bakalis

**Treasurer:** Tracy Smith

**Secretary:** Lidia Di Giuseppe

**Immediate Past President:** Anna Griffin

### 2019 so far

Vision and operations procedures for this year focus on three themes:

- Service classroom Geography teacher
- Support Yr 7 – 12 geography students
- Strengthen Geography profile and connect to future careers

Five Teacher Professional Development days are being offered. Targeting inexperienced, new and returning HaSS/geography teachers, these TPD's include workshop based professional learning, Conference, Rottnest Island geography skills and fieldwork day and an AGTA Roadshow.

New initiatives being trialled are two Student Professional Learning Seminars. Their aim is to present short, condensed and concentrated case study content that is directly linked to the Yr

12 ATAR course. The first SLPS trial was a sell-out.

Promotion of geography is continuing through planned activities: revision seminars, Geography Week, HaSS Week and Young Geographer of the Year competition.

Finally, publications have been keeping many on the committee busy. The launch of the new WA ATAR Geography Units 1 & 2 textbook has been extremely successful and well received by students and teachers. Written, produced and published by GAWA, the text addresses geographical knowledge, skills and understandings of the Yr 11 ATAR and Yr 12 General geography courses.

Leo Conti, President GAWA

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## GHTANT

Our current membership stands at 42.

Congratulations to Julie Hearnden who was made a Life Member at our last AGM. She has worked tirelessly to promote Geography and GHTANT in the Northern Territory, and nationally, since joining the organisation in 2005.

We are currently planning the 2019 Festival of Teaching, to be held in August. These are held every second year. All the teaching associations in the Territory come together for the festival, with workshops available to all teachers at all stages of schooling. This year, GHTANT will be presenting two workshops that will certainly benefit Geography teachers – our current Treasurer, Julie Hearnden, will present a workshop on effective fieldwork, and our President,

Steve Hawkins, will present a range of online tools that can be used to put together infographics.

GHTANT is also providing \$3000.00 to our members to contribute towards the travel and registration costs for the 2019 AGTA Conference on the Gold Coast this year.

Anna Hind, Vice-President

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## GTANSW

In an attempt to keep the annual conference interesting, innovative and able to fulfil teachers professional learning needs effectively, several 'Immersion Courses' were offered and extended presentation/ workshop sessions.

The aim of 'Immersion Courses' was this was to give teachers a full day's programme to develop deep knowledge, understanding and skills in one area of interest.

1. Drones in Geography by Benn Watts and Nick Buzza, Albury TAFE

Session 1. Learn the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) CASA rules and regulations

Session 2. Learn how to operate a RPAS device and collect data for the classroom

Session 3: Analysing and working with RPAS data

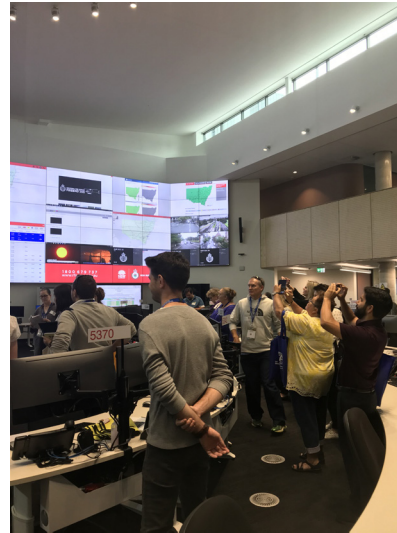
A highlight was flying drones inside ANZ stadium.



2. Fieldwork skills & techniques in natural and built environments in SOP by Danielle Leggo from Sydney Olympic Park.

3. The GIS Geography Classroom by Skye Rodger, ESRI Australia.

A highlight was walking to the new RFS headquarters, collecting urban heat island fieldwork data using Survey123 on the way and seeing real world state of the art GIS in action.



The conference also offered longer (2.5 hour) for combined presentation / workshop sessions. These included:

1. Regenerating Australia's natural landscapes: processes and strategies coupled with Landscape Regeneration in practice using visuals and practical demonstrations by Luke Peel and Peter Hazell from the Mulloon Institute.

2. A day in the life of a geospatial scientist and drone pilot by Dr Karen Joyce from JQU and She Maps.

Feedback from participants was very positive. Responses to the question 'Do you have any suggestions for improving the content and/or organisation of this conference in 2020?' included:

- *More of the day long programs please*
- *The full day drone workshop was an excellent mix of information and practical.*
- *One day sessions. In the past I have learned a lot from the conference but then found it difficult to implement back at school. By focusing on one thing for the day (spatial technologies), I got a lot cemented in my mind and am planning to incorporate it next term.*

Lorraine Chaffer,  
President GTANSW & ACT.

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### GTAQ

It's an exciting time in Queensland with the release of the new Senior Syllabus for Geography. we are fielding a number requests for support, ranging from where to access relevant data, how to set up communities of practice, and professional learning across a range of topics - spatial technology, fieldwork and data analysis being the most requested. We will largely target our professional learning activities around developing teacher capacity for the new senior syllabus, however, aside from content, the skills are applicable for teaching Geography at all levels

During Term 2 we presented our first professional learning days with several workshops across the state focused on developing fieldwork skills; including transforming and analysing data for both anthropogenic and natural environments. We are currently developing a professional learning package for beginning and out of field teachers. This is an introduction to key skills for Geography which we will offer as twilight sessions. We continue to look for collaboration opportunities with schools across the state to facilitate delivery of professional learning afar.

We completed the process of strategic planning at the end of last year and the culmination of the process has resulted in a reinvigorated Council with a clear vision and purpose for the Association for the coming years. The engagement of an external consultant for this process was exceptionally productive. With a diversity of stakeholders involved in

the process. We reflected on our members feedback, the strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities to grow and remain a viable association. The outcome has been a refocused vision statement - Excellence in Geographical Education; a clear articulation of our values - Empowerment, Integrity, Sustainability, Expertise; and distinct mission – Supporting geography teachers across Queensland and promoting excellence in geographical education. The AGM in February saw some old and new faces elected to the 2019 Council and we now have a Council of 14 members including new representatives from the Gold Coast.

As hosts of the AGTA2019 Conference in October we are also excited to sponsor Kerry O'Brien as the keynote speaker.

The conference program provides four workshop streams, something for everyone, with expert presenters from education, academia and industry:

- Digital Technology Innovation
- Curriculum Innovation
- Pedagogy Innovation
- Expert Content Knowledge

This year the Conference Tuesday has been dedicated to a series of whole day Masterclasses where delegates will have the opportunity to work with an expert in a field to develop a deep understanding of the relevant content and skills. The fieldwork program encompasses a diverse range of topics – tourism, ecosystems, food security, land cover transformation and spatial technology in the field. In addition to these fantastic professional learning opportunities there are some great social events that take advantage of the conference location on the beautiful Gold Coast.

Julie Davis, President GTAQ

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## GTASA

GTASA current membership for 2019 stands at 96.

In January, GTASA Life Member Rita Shepherd was awarded an OAM for her contributions to the community through charitable works at the Australia Day awards. Her award recognised her work with the Dare 2 Dream Foundation (charity centred in India) as well as her contributions to GTASA & AGTA over the years. We are very proud of Rita and her achievements.

In June GTASA hosted their annual conference, with the theme Geography - shaping our future. We were delighted to welcome Professor Mark Howden from the Climate Change Institute at ANU as our keynote speaker. Mark challenged our thinking and understanding of the issues related to this prominent issue in our world. Conference participants also had

the opportunity to undertake a masterclass in spatial technologies. Skye Rogers from ESRI Australia and Bec Nicholas from Contour Education provided teachers with current resources and new ideas for the delivery of spatial technologies in Geography classrooms.

Joanne Wegner, President

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## TGTA

### Humanities Conference May - Hobart

The TGTA teamed up with the English (TATE) and History (THTA) Associations in Tasmania once again, to present the 'Crossing Borders' Humanities Conference.

There was a pre-conference for Primary teachers, covering the cross-curricular priorities of Sustainability, Australia and Australia's Engagement with Asia and the Pacific and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

The Conference was introduced on the Friday evening with a keynote from author John Marsden before a panel with an expert from each of English,

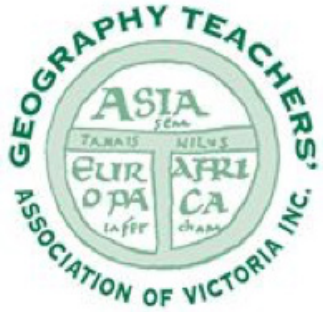
History and Geography. The 2019 AGTA conference Convener, Rebecca Nicholas, represented Geography on the panel before giving the opening keynote on Saturday morning. There were 40 workshops for the day and fieldwork and workshops

TGTA have also partnered with Greening Australia (Tasmania) to deliver a series of Climate Change Symposia and fieldwork trips looking and restoration on degraded landscapes.

This will also be complemented this year with a fieldtrip and talks on Aboriginal land management from the author of 'Dark Emu', Bruce Pascoe and author of 'The Biggest Estate on Earth', Bill Gammage.

Rowan Harris, President

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## GTAV

The GTAV continues to provide exemplary Professional Learning events – Help how do I teach Geography, New to VCE, spatial technology workshops, a senior Conference.

The highlight of the year in the development of the resources was the launch of the online Geography courses. Largely funded by our SPP grant, the modules in Geography Skills, Geography Concepts, Fieldwork and Spatial Technology address the need for teachers untrained in Geography to learn the skills required.

The take up has been excellent and we look forward to further developments in this space to assist the 43 % of teachers who are taking classes of Geography without any Geography training.

During 2018 the GTAV was also proud to develop significant partnerships with government, industry, tertiary and commercial organisations.

It is these partnerships which enable the GTAV to expand the reach of our association and advocate the importance of all young citizens studying Geography.

These partnerships enable the GTAV to provide or support the GeoTECH spatial Hackfest July school holiday program, the RMIT Urban Futures Planning Competition MapIT!, the Kids Conferences and many more.

Alex Rossimel, President GTAV

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